

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

Property/District Name: Rochester Farm Survey Number: WO-317

Project: US 113 from MD 394 to Delaware State Line Agency: SHA

Site visit by MHT Staff: ☒ no ☐ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility **not** recommended ☒

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Rochester Farm is located on the east side of Route 113 north of Snow Hill in Worcester County, MD. The property, which includes a large mid-19th-century farmhouse and several non-contributing farm buildings, is not considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

According to the MHT form on the property, Rochester Farm was originally part of the tremendous "Rochester" tract, patented in 1682 and including 2900 acres. The farmhouse on the property was erected ca. 1870 and has been owned by the Northam family since the early 20th century.

The farmhouse is a large, two-story, five-bay frame structure with a central passage plan. Designed in a watered-down Greek Revival style, characterized by pilaster corner boards and a wide, plain frieze board, the dwelling is set upon an infilled brick foundation and covered with a steeply pitched gable roof with brick end chimneys. A rebuilt 2-1/2-story kitchen wing extends off the back of the main block of the house, significantly compromising its original form and massing. The interiors have been remodelled and are finished with traditional period woodwork that is modest in its decoration and architectural quality. The property lacks the architectural distinctiveness and integrity to qualify it for listing in the National Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Review and Compliance Files

Prepared by: Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian, 6/30/1989

Kimberly Prothro Williams March 28, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: ☒ yes ☐ no ☐ not applicable

Orlando Roberts April 10, 1996
Reviewer, NR program Date

Handwritten initials: JMT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
<input type="checkbox"/>	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
<input type="checkbox"/>	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Period (<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> historic)	

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Subsistence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Settlement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Political
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental Adaptation

IV. Historic Period Themes:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government/Law
<input type="checkbox"/>	Military
<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion
<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Educational/Cultural
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: BuildingHistoric Environment: RuralHistoric Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic/Single Dwelling

Known Design Source: _____

WO-317
Rochester Farm
Snow Hill vicinity
Private

c. 1860

Owned by the Northam family since the early twentieth century, this Snow Hill vicinity farm is part of the tremendous Rochester tract, patented in 1682 by John Godden and including 2900 acres. However, the farmhouse on the property is a third quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling erected around 1860. The large center hall, single-pile dwelling is finished with traditional period woodwork. Etched in a pane of glass are the initials, J. L. P., which identify one of the former Purnell family occupants. In 1877 the property is designated under the ownership of Mrs. Mary Jane Purnell, who had acquired the farm in January of that year after a circuit court settlement.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ROCHESTER FARM

MHT Inventory Number: W0-317

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
 AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
 AGRARAIN/INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
 1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family farm dwelling

Survey No. W0-317

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ROCHESTER FARM

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of US Route 113 ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Sidney O. Northam

street & number Berlin Road (US Route 113) telephone no.: 632-0182

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber ODC 6

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 34

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WO-317

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Rochester farm is located on the east side of US Route 113 north of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, five-bay center hall frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on north/south axis.

The farmhouse, dating from around 1870, is a two-story center hall/single-pile frame dwelling supported on a infilled brick pier foundation, and it is sheathed with a layer of asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the back of the main house is a rebuilt two-and-a-half story dining room and kitchen wing. The house is accompanied by a few farm buildings of later date.

The west (main) elevation of the farmhouse is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The six-panel front door is framed by colored glass sidelights. Stretching across the entire first floor is a turned post porch highlighted by a center gable sheathed with fish-scale wood shingles. Lighting the second floor are five evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Trimming the corners of the house are covered over wide plank pilasters.

The north and south gable ends have exterior corbelled base brick chimney stacks with six-over-six sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The chimney tops are finished with corbelled caps. A modern single-story addition is attached to the south gable end.

The east (rear) elevation of the main house is largely covered by the rebuilt two-and-a-half story dining room and kitchen wing.

The interiors have been partially remodeled through the years by some third quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork remains in place. A turned newel post and tapered balusters supported a circular profile handrail. Plain mid nineteenth century post and lintel mantels are found in the house along the four-panel doors.

8. Significance

Survey No. WO-317

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Owned by the Northam family since the early twentieth century, this Snow Hill vicinity farm is part of the tremendous Rochester tract, patented in 1682 by John Godden and including 2900 acres. However, the farmhouse on the property is a third quarter of the nineteenth century dwelling erected around 1860. The large center hall, single-pile dwelling is finished with traditional period woodwork. Etched in a pane of glass are the initials, J. L. P., which identify one of the former Purnell family occupants. In 1877 the property is designated under the ownership of Mrs. Mary Jane Purnell, who had acquired the farm in January of that year after a circuit court settlement. (ITM 5/158)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. W0-317

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private consultant/Worcester Co. date 6/30/89

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 301-1651-1094

city or town Westover state MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

WO-317
ROCHESTER FARM
Snow Hill vicinity
Chain of title

ODC 6/34 Thomas P. Selby
 Hattie V. Selby

to

1/24/1910 Henry C. Northam
 \$4000.00 "Rochester Farms"

ODC 3/207 Thomas J. Henman
 Cora A. Henman

to

1/9/1909 Thomas P. Selby
 \$4,975.00 "Rochester Farm"

FHP 26/100 Stephen L. Purnell

to

9/15/1906 Thomas J. Henman

FHP 21/220 John W. Purnell
 Carrie F. Purnell

to

8/16/1904 Stephen L. Purnell
 \$1,600.00 being the same which was surveyed
 calculated and plotted by William Ulysses
 Schoolfield 8/5/1904 161 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres
 "Purnells Farm" plat shows D. M. and Va
 right-of-way

WO-317
ROCHESTER FARM
Snow Hill vicinity
Chain of title continued

Page 2

FHP 18/57

Mary J. Purnell, George E. Purnell, and
Idella B. Purnell

to

11/17/1902

John W. Purnell

\$1,600.00 "Rochester Farm" now occupied
by William West being the same which was
conveyed unto the Mary J. Purnell, by
three separate deeds

1. ITM 8/249, 9/3/1880, from William M.
Purnell and wife, and Stephen L. Purnell
et al. "being the same real estate of
which Stephen D. Purnell late of said
county died siezed and possessed, except
so much as was sold by Stephen L. Purnell
and James L. Purnell as trustees appointed
by the Circuit Court of Worcester County...

2. ITM 8/255, 3/19/1881, from James L.
Purnell, George U. Truitt, and Gertrude D.
Truitt, "Rochester Farm" whereon Barclay
Moore now resides" \$200.00

3. FHP 3/507, 3/15/1893, from M. Katie
Purnell and John W. Purnell, "Rochester"
whereon William R. Powell now resides"
\$200.00

ITM 5/158

Stephen L. Purnell, James L. Purnell, trustees

to

1/12/1877

Mary Jane Purnell

Whereas by a decree of circuit court 5/13/1875
in the case of William M. Purnell and James
L. Purnell vs. Stephen L. Purnell, et al.

WO-317
ROCHESTER FARM
Snow Hill vicinity
Chain of title continued

Page 3

GHR 1/215

John R. Franklin, executor of the last
will and testament of Chessed Purnell,
deceased

to

5/18/1864

Stephen D. Purnell
land on the northwest side of County road
leading from Snow Hill to Berlin
\$8,020.00 called "Flatbury," "Outten's
Luck," and "Rochester" being the same
on which the said Chessed Purnell resided
at the time of this death...

TT 8/348

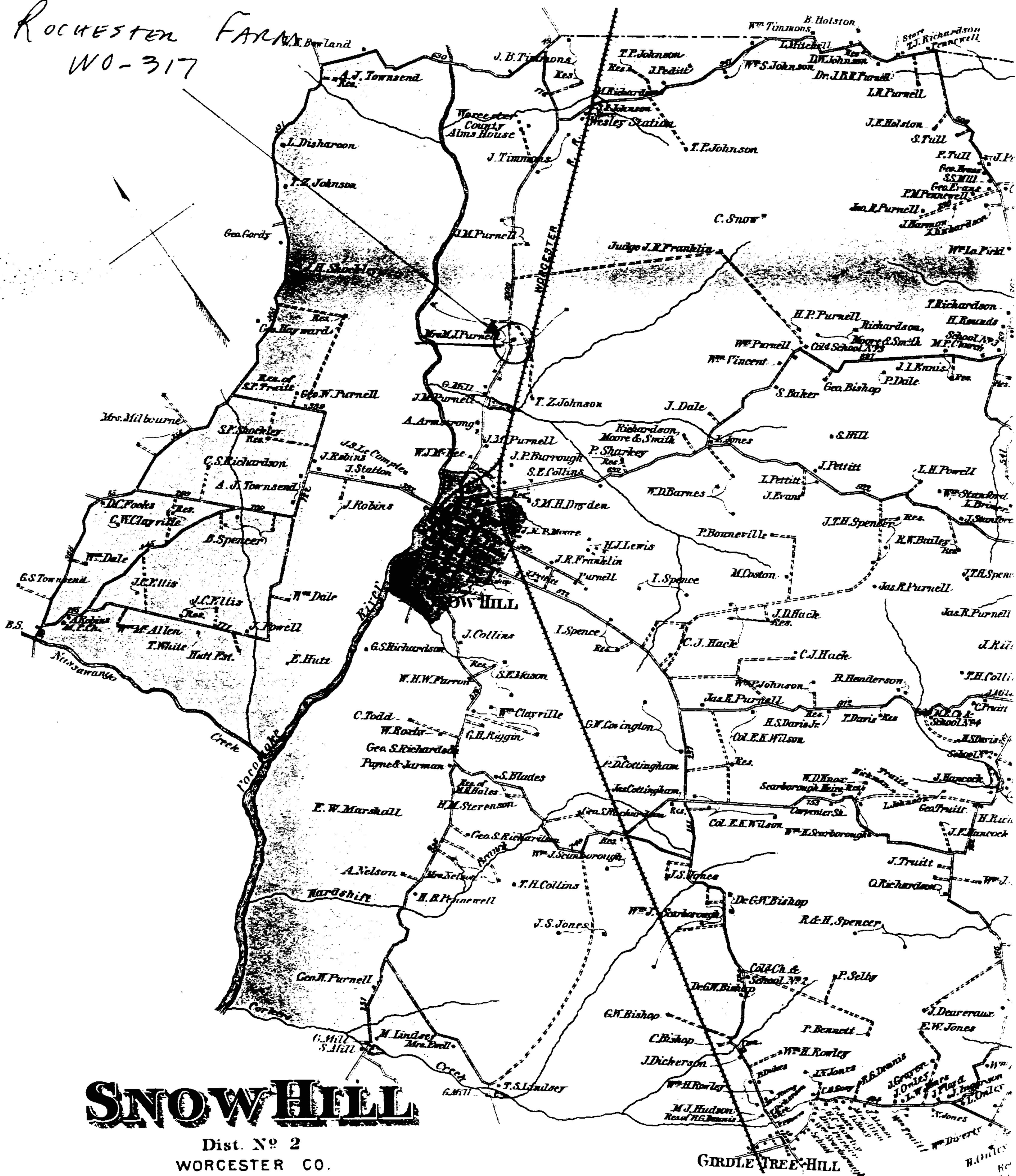
Last will and testament of Chessed Purnell

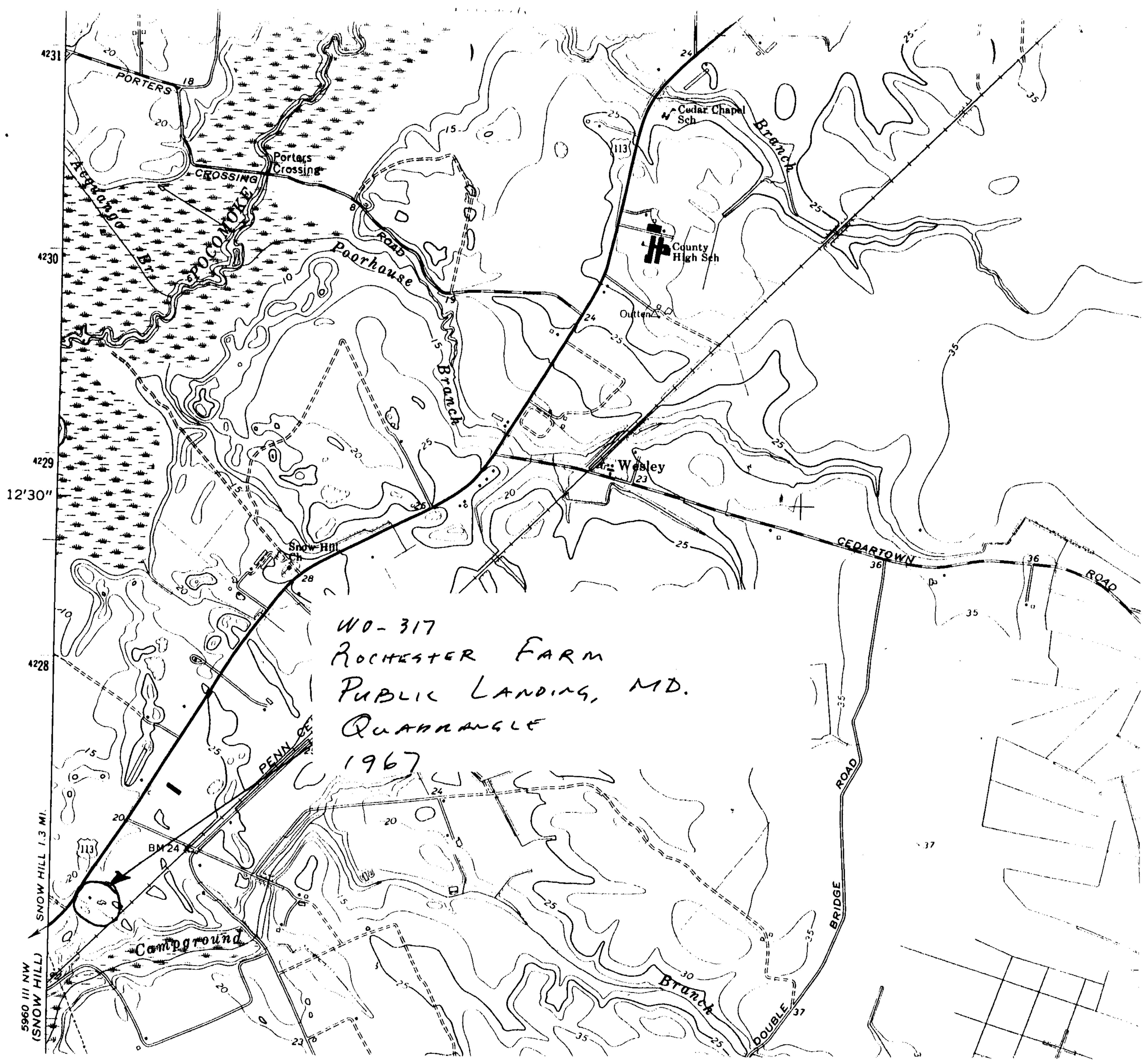
Proved
2/27/1862

Item: I devise all my real estate lying
and being situated in the Town of Snow Hill
including my wharf property to be sold by
my executor...

Item: I direct that the income or rent of
the farm near Snow Hill on which I now
reside for the year in which I may die and
for the succeeding year shall be received by
said executor and paid over to the vestry of
All Hallows Parish first for the payment of
debt I owe said vestry and the remainder as
a donation And I further devise said farm and
all that land I own adjoining thereto to be
sold by my executor herein after named...

W0-317





WO-317
ROCHESTER FARM
PUBLIC LANDING, MD.
QUADRANGLE
1967